

It means it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you become sick.

It means insurance companies will no longer be able to place an arbitrary cap on the amount of coverage that you receive.

It means there will be a yearly limit on how much you can be charged for out-of-pocket expenses because no one should go bankrupt because they get sick.

It means 35 to 40 million additional Americans will be covered with health insurance. That is virtually every legal resident of America.

This set of health insurance reforms means that America will finally get the health care coverage that it deserves.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, if you listen to America's senior citizens and ask them what they want with respect to Medicare, I think this is what you hear. Seniors want to continue to have their benefits left alone and be able to choose the doctor and hospital they want. Under our plan, they do.

Seniors want to pay less for their prescription drugs which are rising at a rapid pace. Under our plan, they will.

Seniors want to be sure that their doctors will continue to provide quality care for them because they trust and rely on those doctors so much. Under our bill, doctors will get more of what they richly and fairly deserve. They will get paid what they deserve.

Now, the other side has engaged in a scare campaign to scare America's seniors. I think what most scares America's seniors is the irresponsibility of proposing nothing about America's health care crisis. That is what the minority offers.

We offer a better way, a brighter way, and a safer way for America's seniors.

#### CHARITABLE GIVING

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the unwise proposal made by the White House earlier this year to lower the tax deduction for charitable giving. Independent studies have concluded this proposal could result in a drop of as much as \$4 billion in charitable donations.

Charities in the Tampa Bay area have recently indicated the threat of this proposal becoming law has already contributed to a sharp decline in donations, forcing some of them to shut their doors down.

Every year, Americans give hundreds of billions of dollars to charity. In

turn, they provide funding to shelters, food banks, health care clinics, and a host of other charitable programs which benefit the needy. During this recession, their services are needed more than ever. Limiting charitable contributions is the wrong course of action and will end up hurting those who need it the most, particularly as we approach the holidays.

□ 1030

#### OLDER AMERICANS LACK HEALTH INSURANCE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it has been 133 days since the Republicans promised to present their health insurance reform legislation, and we still have no alternative plan from them.

The fastest growth group of uninsured Americans is older Americans age 50 to 64. Saying "no" to health insurance reform hurts millions of Americans who lack health insurance.

There was a 36 percent increase in the number of older Americans without insurance from 2000 to 2009. It used to be if you worked most of your life here in America you could retire to someplace warm and sunny like my home State of Florida. There were 7.1 million uninsured people age 50 to 64 in 2007. How can we allow more than 7 million Americans over 50—many who have worked their entire life—to go without health insurance? They certainly can't afford to retire when they're worried about how to pay for their medical bills.

Republicans point to a bunch of different solutions offered by their Members, including dismantling or privatizing Medicare. So which plan do they stand behind? Americans deserve to know.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we are entering the final stages of crafting a health care bill that gives the American people what they want—more choice in health care options, lower cost for families and small businesses, and insurance that's fair to American families once again.

We've worked long days and nights here in Washington to craft a bill that addresses the challenges that people in Connecticut and across this country face. And the American people have been able to read our bills and monitor the debate on television and on the Internet and be able to interact with us when we come back home. Meanwhile, where have our Republican colleagues been? Sitting on the sidelines, talking

about solutions, but sharing nothing with the public. And they have kept us waiting for the last 133 days without a bill.

Well, it's time for Republicans to get in the game because health care struggles of the American people aren't getting any easier, and they can't afford to wait.

#### IT'S TIME TO END "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend our former colleague and current Secretary of the Army, John McHugh. He rightly stated last weekend that the United States Army—the proudest and most professional fighting force on Earth—is fully capable of accepting openly gay and lesbian Americans into service and ending the unworkable and unconscionable policy of "don't ask, don't tell."

We have all heard the tired arguments of why all Americans who choose to serve should not be allowed to serve, but those arguments belong to an intolerant past. The men and women who make up today's Armed Forces are modern, highly informed Americans who have grown up in an era more accepting of individual differences. As Secretary McHugh said, "The Army has a big history of taking on similar issues with predictions of doom and gloom that did not play out."

At long last, the United States military is ready to be representative of all the people of the United States. It's time now for Congress to act and send legislation to the President asking him to end "don't ask, don't tell" once and for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1929) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the amendment is as follows: